

Members will cosponsor it with me. And I hope finally we will do something to stop these huge disparities between what Americans pay and what consumers around the rest of the industrialized world pay for the same drugs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCGOVERN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Alabama addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BELL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXPANSION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today to support the expansion of the child tax credit, a goal that was unfortunately not met as part of the \$350 billion tax cut that we passed just last month. While some have argued that there was simply no room in that bill for a more comprehensive child tax credit, I still believe that our commitment to meeting the basic needs of our children should never be compromised. One out of every six children under the age of 17 lives with parents who will never see the benefit of the child tax credit that passed as part of last month's tax package.

And, Mr. Speaker, who are the parents of these children? They are hard-working Americans. They pay Federal taxes, and they do the very best they can to provide for their families. Yet we have chosen to ignore them to accommodate tax breaks for those who are far less likely to reinvest them back into our stalled economy or to rely upon that money to carry them into their next paycheck.

To address this glaring inequity, I cosponsored legislation to extend the tax credit to the families of 19 million children left out of the last tax bill. This bill, which was sponsored by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), would also expand these tax privileges to many of the families, many of the families of the courageous military personnel serving in Iraq and other combat zones. These patriotic men and women have sacrificed precious time with their own families to protect ours, and I believe that this is the very least that we can do to show them our respect and our appreciation.

We have spoken virtuously of their selfless actions overseas; yet when we have an opportunity to match those actions with anything more than words, we are AWOL. We are AWOL.

Clearly, we recognize how critical it is to provide families with the resources they need to ensure the well-being of their children. Yet we have failed to follow through on our good intentions by leaving out those who need this help the very most.

Interestingly enough, today marks National Hunger Awareness Day, and in this country there are nearly 16 million children who ate free or reduced-priced lunches through the School Lunch Program last year. Many of these children, however, cannot rely on such consistent or well-balanced meals during the summertime when school has adjourned.

I would encourage us all to keep this in mind with summer just weeks away and schools already beginning to close their doors because, Mr. Speaker, there could not be a more appropriate time to expand the child tax credit to the families of these children.

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As a parent and a grandparent, I personally feel, and I believe that all of my colleagues feel, that all children are important; that no matter how much their parents make, that they are important. That is why I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting legislation that treats them this way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PORTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 3:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Ms. LOFGREN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 4 after 7:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of family school graduation.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 2:30 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. HERGER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for June 2 and 3 on account of attending his daughter's high school graduation.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, for 5 minutes, today.